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OBJECT TO USE OF MEDICAL BUILDINGS
FOR INDUSTRIAL PURPOSES

Novosibirsk -- Resentment among medical personnel in this city has reached proportions necessitating rapid action by local medical officials. The medical men are making it quite clear that they do not intend to be abused any more, and are looking to their duly authorized representatives to assert themselves and obtain for the medical profession the honor which it deserves.

None of the members of the medical profession object to the general cooperation program formulated by the local officials. But they do object to obvious abuse of privilege. Facts are difficult to obtain, but it appears that the hubbub and cry was caused by a one-year lease on a three-story building which was to be used as the dye shop for a knitted jersey wool plant. The building was being used as the laundry for the municipal public-health department. Three years have passed. It is generally known that the local political council has made frequent requests to the fabric plant to relinquish the building. Some parties have even stated that the Council of Ministers RSFSR has ordered the building returned to its original owners, but nothing is done to carry out these administrative demands.

It appears now that V. I. Blagirev, deputy of the local political council to the Novosibirsk Oblast Council, received some indication of growing resentment against apparently helpless administrative agencies, and has launched an investigation into the matter. The public, however, feels that the facts are clear enough without the necessity of a prolonged inquiry and are demanding immediate action.

It seems to have been general practice to use buildings assigned for medical purposes for other branches of industry. The leases were for short periods but then the principle of "possession is 90 percent of the law" took over with monotonous regularity. Thus, in 1944, the building intended for a disinfection station was temporarily leased for another purpose, and has yet to be returned. One of the buildings of Maternity Home No 1 was temporarily given over to the carpentry shop of a construction trust. There are many other similar incidences, and all of them authorized by the local executive committee officials.

The public can do without political representatives who are devoid of authority. A reform appears necessary. -- A. Tugin, special correspondent.

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